

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
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R 231250Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6579

S E C R E T TEHRAN 4168

EXDIS

DEPT PAS TO SECDEF, JCS, CINCPAC, CINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IR
SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS

REF: (A) TEHRAN 4080; (B) STATE 106370; (C) CINCPAC 040146Z MAY 74

1. REFERENCES A AND B CROSSED IN TRANSMISSION. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD APPROACH GOI RE CONTINUATION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR P-3 FLIGHTS FROM BANDAR ABBAS. WE PROPOSE PRESENTATION ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. WE SHOULD ASK GOI APPROVAL OF TEXT OF CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN REF B. WE WOULD LIKE TO NOTE TO GOI THAT WE BELIEVE THERE IS SOME LIEKLIHOOD PRESS ATTENTION WILL BE DRAWN TO P-3 FLIGHTS AND THAT WE DO NOT THINK THAT PROPOSED GUIDANCE WILL NECESSARILY CONVINCE SKEPTICAL JOURNALISTS WHO WILL PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON OPERATIONAL PURPOSES OF FLIGHTS. HOWEVER, WE HOP THAT STATEMENT WILL BE SATISFACTORY FOR IRANIAN PURPOSES.

B. WE WOULD LIKE TO TELL IRANIANS HOW LONG P-3 FLIGHTS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AND WHAT WILL BE ANTICIPATED FREQUENCY OF P-3 OPERATIONS FROM BANDAR ABBAS DURING PERIODS OF HIGH AND LOW ACTIVITY.

C. WE SHOULD TELL IRANIANS IN GREATER DETAIL THAN PROVIDED REF C WHATPLANS WE HAVE FOR A US PRESENCE IN BANDAR ABBAS, E.G., PRECISELY WHAT FACILITIES AND HOW MANY PERSONNEL WOULD WE LIKE TO
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LOCATE THERE.

D. WE WOULD WISH TO ASSURE IRAIANS THAT WE WOULD PROVIDE COMPLETE INTELLIGENCE PACKAGE AS COLLECTED BY P-3 OPERATIONS FROM BANDAR ABBAS. LOWER LEVEL IRANIANS HAVE EXPRESSED SOME DISSATISFACTION IN THIS REGARD AND WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE MATTER.

E. AS INDICATED REF A, WE HAVE HEARD THAT USS RANGER WILL ENTER INDIAN OCEAN IN JULY. REF C SPEAKS OF USS CHICAGO TASK GROUP. WE WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE IRANIANS OF OUR MAJOR WAR SHIP MOVEMENTS IN INDIAN OCEAN DURING THIS SUMMER.

2. REQUEST (1) APPROVAL FOR APPROACH ALONG FOREGOING LINES AND, (2) NECESSARY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

MIKLOS

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED SECDEF, JCS, CINCPAC, CINCEUR.

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